Prime Minister's views on power situation

1039. SHRI MATI SHOBHANABHARTIA:
SHRIVIJAY J.DARDA: PROF.
ALKABALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed serious concern over the power situation and proposed setting the agenda for power reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is marginal increase in the generation capacity and slow progress in augmentation of transmission and distribution networks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what concrete steps Government has since taken to increase the power generation capacity and to remove various obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Electricity is a concurrent subject under the Constitution. Therefore, the Government of India has been discussing power sector issues with the States from time to time. Addressing the Chief Ministers in the Conference of the Chief Ministers convened by the Ministry of Power on 28th May, 2007, the Prime Minister expressed concern, *inter-alia,* on the poor progress in the addition to generation capacity, in cutting down transmission & distribution losses, in reducing wasteful consumption and in attracting adequate private investment in power sector. A copy of the resolution adopted by the Conference expressing resolve of the Centre and the States to address various issues in the power sector is given in the enclosed Statement. *(See* below).

The highest capacity addition in one year so far was 6853 M W in 2006-07. As against that during the year 2007-08, so far (upto 22.2.2008), the capacity of 7683 MW has already been added.

As far as inter-state transmission is concerned, the development of transmission network is in tandem with the growth in generation capacity addition and all transmission projects associated with generation projects are being implemented by Powergrid matching with commissioning of generation projects. Intra-State transmission and distribution comes in the purview of the States.

(e) Following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure timely completion of power generation projects:

(i) Expediting letter of Award (LoA) in respect of 11th Plan projects in the first year of the 11th Plan itself.